

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PA-01  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12 /066 W  
-----098468 141418Z /42  
R 140757Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO SECSTATE 5058  
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0894

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: MILI, KN, KS, BM  
SUBJECT: DPRK AMBASSADOR DENOUNCES US-ROK MILITARY EXERCISE

1. NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO BURMA MA JANG CHOL ON MARCH 11  
HELD A MEETING WITH LOCAL JOURNALISTS AND SOME FOREIGN PRESS  
STRINGERS TO DENOUNCE THE CURRENT US-ROK MILITARY EXERCISE.  
HE READ AND THEN DISTRIBUTED THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT OF THE  
"SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS" OF THE DPRK  
ISSUED ON MARCH 6. THIS STATEMENT SAID:

-- THE EXERCISE CREATES "A TENSE SITUATION WHICH WILL LEAD  
TO THE BRINK OF WAR."

-- IN SPITE OF ITS PLEDGE TO WITHDRAW FORCES FROM THE SOUTH,  
THE U.S. "HAS CONCENTRATED MORE AGGRESSIVE ARMED FORCES ON SOUTH  
KOREAN SOIL BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF WITHDRAWAL AND IS HASTENING  
THE WAR PREPARATIONS."

-- JAPAN HAS JOINED THE "WAR CLAMOUR" BY "RENDERING HER  
TERRITORIES AS U.S. MILITARY BASES FOR AGGRESSION AGAINST  
KOREA."

-- THE DPRK APPEALS TO THE SOCIALIST AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES  
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TO CONDEMN THE U.S. AND SOUTH KOREAN "PUPPET CLIQUE" AND TO  
DEMAND U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA.

-- IF THE U.S. AND ROK "CLING TO A DANGEROUS WAR GAMBLE" AND  
IGNORE REPEATED DPRK WARNINGS, "THEY WILL BE HELD WHOLLY  
RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE CONSEQUENCES ARISING THEREFROM."

2. MA ALSO HANDED OUT A DPRK "MEMORANDUM" ISSUED IN FEBRUARY WHICH DENOUNCES THE U.S. "TWO KOREAS" POLICY AND REJECTS "CROSS RECOGNITION," UN MEMBERSHIP FOR BOTH THE DPRK AND ROK ETC.

3. JOURNALISTS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING WERE NOT FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE PERFORMANCE. THEY HAD DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING MA AND FOUND HIM VERY UNRESPONSIVE TO QUESTIONS.

4. SEVERAL BURMESE PAPERS PRINTED A PICTURE OF MA WITH A CAPTION STATING THAT HE WAS MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS AND "EXPLAINING THE ATTITUDE OF THE DPRK GOVERNMENT" TOWARD THE US-ROK MILITARY EXERCISE. AS INSTRUCTED BY THE INFORMATION MINISTRY, HOWEVER, THE PRESS CARRIED NOTHING ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE STATEMENT.

5. ROK AMBASSADOR JIN SANG AN CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BEAN MARCH 13 TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, MA'S PRESS CONFERENCE. (MEMCON FOLLOWS.) HIS INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING GENERALLY CORRESPONDED TO OURS. AMBASSADOR BEAN INDICATED THAT WE WERE NOT PARTICULARLY EXCITED ABOUT THE PRESS CONFERENCE OR THE GUB'S HANDLING OF IT, AND NOTED OUR BELIEF THAT BY SUCH ACTIVITIES THE NORTH KOREANS PROBABLY WORSEN RATHER THAN IMPROVE THEIR POSITION AND IMAGE IN BURMA. AMBASSADOR AN SEEMED TO AGREE THAT NO RESPONSE ON OUR PART IS NEEDED HERE.

BEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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